



# **Title of report: Work programme 2025/6**

**Meeting: Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

**Meeting date: Monday 27 October 2025**

**Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

All Wards

## **Purpose**

To consider the draft work programme for the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee until July 2026.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) The committee agree the draft work programme for Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee contained in the work programme report attached as appendix 1, which will be subject to monthly review, as the basis of their primary focus for the remainder of the municipal year.**
- b) The committee note the forward plan attached as appendix 2 and identify any opportunities for collaboration or alignment of work.**

## **Alternative options**

- 1. The committee could decline to agree a work programme for its future committee meetings. This would likely result in unstructured and purposeless meetings.
- 2. The committee could also decline to identify areas of potential collaboration or alignment of work with other committees. This could result in duplication or overlap of work.

## Key considerations

3. A fundamental part of good scrutiny is planning and agreeing a programme of work for the committee to undertake. A well-considered work programme:
  - a. identifies priorities for the committee's work that align with corporate and partnership priorities, as well as reflecting community concern;
  - b. ensures that each identified topic has clear objectives that focus the committee's work;
  - c. creates a timetable for the committee's programme of work so that the committee carry out its work at the optimal time; and
  - d. provides officers and partners with requirements for evidence that will support the committee in providing evidence-based scrutiny.
4. To prepare this work programme, the committee chair meets regularly with the relevant corporate director and with officers of the council to identify potential priority areas of work for the committee. These priority areas are agreed by the committee and have been scheduled within the work programme to ensure the committee considers topics when it is most useful to do so. A draft of this work programme has then been circulated to the council's corporate leadership team and other key senior directors, for further comment and refinement.
5. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the council's most recently published forward plan of key decisions.

## Community impact

6. Effective scrutiny enables the committee to reflect community concern, one of the four purposes of scrutiny as outlined by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

## Environmental impact

7. This report contains no direct environmental impacts. However the work that the committee will undertake resulting from agreeing this work programme may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

## Equality duty

8. In producing this report, officers have been mindful of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The report and appendices are written in plain English and laid out clearly to maximise readability.
9. Although the reports themselves only provide information, they may result in recommendations to Cabinet or a portfolio holder for action. In agreeing those recommendations, Cabinet or the portfolio holder will need to consider the impact of those recommendations on the council's equalities' duties.

## Resource implications

10. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. Similarly, a programme of work undertaken by committee is an integral part of the council's 'business as usual'. There is no resource implication in setting or agreeing a work programme. However agreed topics in the work programme, in particular any requests for bespoke research or the involvement of outside

experts or community groups, may incur resource costs. These will be contained in any reporting or planning of agreed topics within this work programme.

### **Legal implications**

11. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
12. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

### **Risk management**

13. There are no risks identified in the committee agreeing an effective and timely programme of work. However there is a risk to the council's reputation if committees fail to set a work programme, or set a programme of work that does not address local authority, partnership or community priorities.

### **Consultees**

14. In drafting this work programme, consideration has been given to:
  - a. The recent review of the scrutiny function at Herefordshire Council;
  - b. The previous work of scrutiny committees;
  - c. Priorities suggested by members of the committee; and
  - d. Work with Herefordshire Council officers to develop topics and agree optimum timings to bring items for consideration.
15. This work programme is subject to ongoing review, which may involve additional consultees.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee work programme 2025-2026  
Appendix 2 – Herefordshire Council Forward Plan 10 October 2025

### **Background papers**

None